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NUMBER 36.

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ESSAY.

(By O. B. Rock, before the recent Northern Neck Sunday School Convention at Fairfields Baptist church.)

"Wandering Stars in the Sunday School; or, Teachers Who Often Wander from Meeting their Classes." Among the greatest needs in every calling of life at the present time is the religious and moral training of the young. The true woman is faithful to her duties; men and women who will fill the places assigned to them; who will always be found in their places of duty. People of this class always win the confidence, love and respect of every person they come in contact with. What is true of the temporal life is true of the Christian life. Faithful men and women are needed in the church and the Sunday school. The best and most successful Sunday school teachers, and the ones who are doing the most to advance the cause of Christ, are those who faithfully and diligently discharge their every duty by their classes; who are prompt in meeting their classes; who never wander from meeting them. Such as these do much towards training the boys and girls entrusted to their care to a higher and nobler life. Teachers of this class will make lasting impressions upon the young and tender minds—impressions will be made that will never be effaced.

My mind goes back to early childhood days and the old meeting house where my youthful steps were first directed. In the gray-haired teacher, always in his place, usually met with a hearty handshake and a smile on his countenance. He left impressions on my mind by his example and words that will help me all through life's battles.

For faithfulness and obedience let us take the United States army. It is true that the army is made up of men who are true and faithful to their duty and to their country, men who have been tried and not found wanting. The soldiers are thoroughly disciplined and are expected to fill the several places allotted to them. They must not wander away from their posts when duty calls them. In the call to battle every man is expected to do his duty. Great loss of life and often defeat has been traced to the neglect of some officer. Some one who wandered away from his post of duty in the very crisis of the conflict when everything depended on the stand of the soldiers and their superior.

What is true of the army is true of the railroad. Where thousands of passengers are travelling daily over the great lines that intersect our country like network and where a vast amount of freight is being handled, how important is it for every man at his post—the engineer, the fireman at the furnace, the baggage man at his place, the mail clerk in his car, the conductor looking after the passengers—all depends on the faithfulness of the men employed. Owing to the great risks often encountered in railroad travel every railroad company seeks to it or wandering from duty, that none but honest, faithful and reliable men are employed. So the Sunday school superintendent should be ever alert to get faithful men and women to the Sunday school class, those who will meet their classes promptly though they may have to make great sacrifices to do it.

Let us take the practice of law. In these days when that profession seems to be overcrowded how all important it is for the lawyer to do all in his power for his client. How important for him to see that justice is meted out to all—equal rights to all, special privileges to none. The criminal that is to be tried for his life needs as his counsel a man who will not wander from duty nor waver in his conviction, a man who while doing all in his power to save the condemned man's life will at the same time not neglect to do his duty as a lawyer expects to keep his practice he must not wander away from his profession, or his clients will wander from him to find others who are more attentive to their cases.

The doctor in his profession must be a man of firm, stable and upright character, one whom his patients can trust and rely on. To neglect his duties means loss of practice and finally his reputation as a physician. If he fails to attend the bedside of suffering ones and in any way neglects his practice people very soon lose confidence in him. Often life depends on the promptness and efficiency of a physician. To make a success in his calling he must never wander from his bounden duty as a physician neglect his patients to do all in his power to alleviate the ills incident to life. Neglect means failure to him as well as to all others in every vocation of life.

The farmer, to be efficient and successful, must rise with the sun and bestir himself lively. He must drive his work, not let it drive him. A few days' neglect means the loss of much money. Many heavily mortgaged farms stand today as monuments of neglect. Wander away from your work, neglect to do it properly, instead of working your crops in time and giving them the attention due them, spend your time in loafing and you will soon see every source of revenue wandering from you.

Let us take true women in the home. We all know the priceless value of a true woman. You may take the best men living today, ask them to what do they owe their success, their lives of usefulness, and the answer will almost invariably be to mother. The true woman in the home—who can estimate her value? How she strives to make that home all that it should be. How she labors for the happiness of those around her, often sacrificing her health, comfort and happiness for the sake of those she loves. The mother never wanders from the children she has reared; her affections never waver. No matter how weary a son may be, she never forgets him. Her prayers ascend daily for his safe keeping and return to the "old home." Though he has forsaken every tie and association that would bind him to home and loved ones, the mother patiently waits and watches for her wandering boy. The room stays just as he left it; the old familiar scene, the family board remains and a big place in his mother's heart endures. The true woman is faithful to home, husband and children; faithful in the performance of everything conducive to the happiness and welfare of those around her.

That is true of all these is true of the Sunday school. A faithful, consecrated teacher filled with love for and actuated by a burning zeal to do something for the Master, will be faithful to his class. He will not neglect them. He looks after their moral and spiritual welfare. What parents are to the children at home the Sunday school is to the church. We all love and respect a faithful man, one whom we can rely on to do all he promises to do. The most successful men and women that have ever lived in this age or any other have been those who were noted for their fidelity and faithfulness in performing every duty assigned them. Among those in the political world I might mention Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, Ulysses S. Grant and last but not least our own beloved, William McKinley, and hosts of others did time and space permit.

In the religious world I will mention D. L. Moody, Charles Spurgeon, George Whitefield, Charles Wesley and Adam Clarke. All of these have left behind them influences that are building for time and eternity. Of true and noble women I can mention the names of Amelia Barr, Margaret Sangster, Frances Willard and Maria Farnham. These by their faithfulness to their duties have left behind them influences that have exerted great influence over the young and rising generation. All men who travel by water know the value of a compass. By its mariners find their way over the trackless seas. A great deal often depends upon its accuracy. The neglect of the compass will lead to the loss of the vessel and the lives of the crew. It is of great importance that the compass be of the most reliable make and that it be kept in good order. It is of great importance that the compass be of the most reliable make and that it be kept in good order.

What is true of the compass is true of the teacher. The neglect of the teacher will lead to the loss of the school and the lives of the pupils. It is of great importance that the teacher be of the most reliable make and that it be kept in good order. It is of great importance that the teacher be of the most reliable make and that it be kept in good order.

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